



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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*For Immediate Release*

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March 22, 2006

PR -020

# Bluebells Highlight of Native Plant Sale

An appreciation for plants is easily developed but an understanding of the value and importance of nurturing a garden filled with native plants requires a bit more persistence and education. In an effort to encourage use of native plants in local gardens, the Friends of Riverbend Park will sponsor their Sixth Annual Native Plant sale, joining in the festivities of Great Falls Day on Saturday, May 6, 2006. Held at Great Falls Grange in the picnic area located at 9818 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, the sale will feature plants which are native to the Potomac River Gorge. Featured items are sized to carry and include shrubs, small trees and plants. The sale will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Planting native trees, shrubs and perennials has important advantages for gardeners and the environment as a whole. Native plants are accustomed to the local climate and survive hot, dry summers as well as subzero cold and false springs. Native plants are accustomed to Virginia soil and help avoid the need to lime, condition or fertilize. Native plants are resistant to disease and resident pests. There is no need to treat with fungicides, pesticides and herbicides. Most importantly, native plants provide food, cover and nesting materials which attract birds and butterflies to the yard, a giant plus for those who appreciate these beautiful creatures in close proximity!

Native plants include flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees indigenous to a region of North America prior to settlement of the area by Europeans. Most species are self-seeding or perennial. The ever-popular Virginia Bluebells will be available for sale.

The Friends of Riverbend Park is a community association that supports the programming and maintenance of Riverbend Park, a 400-acre park along the shores of the Potomac River. The park is owned and managed by the Fairfax County Park Authority. Proceeds will benefit Riverbend Park which is enjoyed by thousands who enjoy the forested area, meadows, ponds and streams. Come early for the best selection! Any plants not sold will be planted at the park.

For more information contact Riverbend Park at 703-759-9018.

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